

PLATALEA REGIA.—This is the commoner Spoonbill, being found on most waterholes. It nests during the summer rains.

XENORHYNCHUS ASIATICA.—The Black-necked Stork, or Jabiru, is only occasionally seen inland, but is more common on the lagoons near the Gulf. My brother found a nest and two eggs towards the end of April, 1877, on Spear Creek, near Iffley station. The nest was a large one, composed of sticks and twigs, in a tall eucalypt. The eggs he left at Iffley till his return from Cooktown. Unfortunately they were destroyed.

ARDEA NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ and A. PACIFICA.—Both these Herons are quite common, as is also the Nankeen Heron and two Egrets.

DENDROCYNNA EYTONI and D. VAGANS.—Eyton's Duck is very common, occurring in large flocks. I have myself seen a blackfellow kill 25 by discharging both barrels of his gun into a mob as they sat with outstretched necks uttering their loud, whistling note. These birds nest three or four miles out on the downs, in the grass, a usual clutch being 10 or 11. The nest contains no down, being made of grass. The other species is only rarely seen.

Teal, the Black, the Pink-eared, and the White-eyed are the other ducks of the district.

The Emu, *Dromæus nova-hollandiæ*, is becoming more plentiful now that the dingoes are being kept down by sheep-breeders.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF PSEUDOGERYGONE.

BY ROBERT HALL.

(Read before the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, 12th August, 1901.)

I RECENTLY received two skins of a *Pseudogerygone* from Mr. J. P. Rogers, obtained at the Fitzroy River, North-West Australia, which differ sufficiently from other members of the genus to warrant me in assigning them to a new species.

The skins are those of male and female birds, the former fully adult, the latter not quite adult, and were obtained in June, 1900, and March, 1901, respectively. There is however little difference in the plumage of the sexes. The most noticeable features are that there are no white or tawny tips and no subterminal band to the tail; the outer edges of all but the first and second primaries are edged with dull white, while in the male the bill is thoroughly black. The female shows new central tail quills, two-thirds of the normal length, of the same uniform ashy-brown as the others, and bearing no subterminal or whitish spot, showing the constancy of the two ages of tail.

On account of the sombre tail, the general unassuming appearance, and by having the least conspicuous marking of any specimens of its genus, I propose for it the name of *Pseudogerygone tenebrosa*, the Dusky Fly-eater, and append detailed descriptions of the male and female.

PSEUDOGERYGONE TENEBROSA, sp. nov., Dusky Fly-eater.

Male.—General colour above, pale rufous-brown, rather ashy-brown on the head and pale rufous on the rump and upper tail coverts; tail uniform ashy-brown, with twelve almost obsolete bars of a darker shade across each of the central feathers; wing chocolate-brown, excepting the two outer primaries, which are edged with white; secondaries bordered with tawny-white; under wing coverts white, and inner webs of secondaries; lores, eyebrows, and narrow ring round each eye, white; ear coverts pale reddish-brown; throat and under surface white, washed with pale yellowish-brown; flanks yellowish-brown; under tail coverts white; bill, legs, and feet black; irides white. Dimensions.—Length (skin), 4.75 inches; wing, 2.2 inches; tarsus, 0.7 inch; culmen, 0.4 inch.

Female.—Nearly full adult. In general agreement with the male; bill brownish-black, with a pale creamy line along keel of lower mandible; edges to primaries creamy-white; legs and feet black. Dimensions.—Length, 4.4 inches; wing, 2.05 inches; tarsus, 0.7 inch; culmen, 0.4 inch.

Habitat.—Fitzroy River, North-West Australia.

The key to the species may be laid down as follows:—"Tail uniform ashy-brown; lores and eyebrows creamy white; throat whitish, like rest of under surface, and all lightly washed with pale yellowish-brown, the flanks being a shade darker; bill entirely black."

NEW NESTS AND EGGS.

BY ROBERT HALL.

(Read before the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, 12th August, 1901.)

AMONG other specimens collected on the Fitzroy River, North-West Australia, by my friend Mr. J. P. Rogers, were the nests of the Yellow-tinted Honey-eater, *Ptilotis flavescens*, Gould, and the Rufous Bush-Lark, *Mirafra woodwardi*, Milligan, as well as the eggs of the latter bird.

Skins of the birds were forwarded with the nests in order that the identification might be certain, and as no descriptions of the nests have yet been published, I take this opportunity of recording them.